

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-13

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ERDA-05 AF-08 ARA-06 CIAE-00 DODE-00 EA-07 H-01
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PRS-01 OES-06 SS-15 USIA-06 NRC-05 /128 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 058187

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA 1 LINE 14 AND PARA 3 LINE 7
OMITTED)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, PARM, UR, KU

SUBJECT: SPECIAL UNGA SESSION ON DISARMAMENT

REF.: KUWAIT 1328

1. THE UNITED STATES HAS TRADITIONALLY NOT SUPPORTED
LARGE CONFERENCES ON DISARMAMENT AND ARMS CONTROL,
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ARGUING THAT THE COMPLEX ISSUES INVOLVED SHOULD BE
DISCUSSED BY EXPERTS IN FORUMS WITH LIMITED MEMBERSHIP
AND IN SETTINGS CONDUCIVE TO THOUGHTFUL EXCHANGES
RATHER THAN RHETORIC AND POLEMICS. IN THE AUTUMN OF 1976,
HOWEVER, IT BECAME APPARENT THAT THE NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES
HAD THE VOTES IN THE UN TO PASS A RESOLUTION CALLING
FOR A SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DEVOTED

TO DISARMAMENT (SSOD). THE U.S. DID NOT OBJECT, THEREFORE, WHEN THE UNGA ADOPTED WITHOUT VOTE SUCH A RESOLUTION SPONSORED BY VARIOUS NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES (NOT, REPEAT NOT, BY THE USSR). WE HAVE ADOPTED A POSITIVE POSTURE TOWARD THE SSOD, AND PLAN TO PARTICIPATE CONSTRUCTIVELY IN THE MEETINGS OF THE SSOD PREPARATORY COMMITTEE (SCHEDULED FOR MARCH, MAY AND SEPTEMBER 1977) IN ORDER TO BRING ABOUT A SUCCESSFUL, NON-CONTENTIOUS SPECIAL SESSION.

2. THE SOVIETS HAVE LONG FAVORED THE CONVENING OF A WORLD DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE (WDC) AND HAVE APPROACHED SEVERAL GOVERNMENTS, INCLUDING THE U.S., TO URGE THAT THE UN SSOD BE USED AS A STEPPING-STONE TO A WDC. WE HAVE REJECTED THIS NOTION, AND WE HAVE INFORMED THE SOVIETS THAT WE:

--- CONSIDER THE SPECIAL SESSION TO BE DISTINCT IN ITS OBJECTIVES AND FUNCTIONS FROM A WORLD DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE AND COULD NOT REGARD ONE AS IMPLYING MOVEMENT TOWARD THE OTHER;

--- ARE NOT PREPARED AT THIS TIME TO SUPPORT THE CONVENING OF A WDC; AND

--- WILL BE IN A BETTER POSITION TO ASSESS THE NEED AND UTILITY OF FURTHER LARGE-SCALE MULTILATERAL ARMS CONTROL MEETINGS IN THE WAKE OF THE SSOD.

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3. ALTHOUGH NO REPRESENTATION TO THE GOK ON THIS SUBJECT IS REQUIRED AT THIS TIME, EMBASSY MAY DRAW ON THE FOLLOWING POINTS AS APPROPRIATE:

--- WE SUPPORTED THE NON-ALIGNED RESOLUTION LAST FALL CALLING FOR A SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO DISCUSS DISARMAMENT IN THE HOPE THAT IT COULD MAKE A CONTRIBUTION TO THE BROADER OBJECTIVES OF ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT.

--- WE LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH THE GOK PRIOR TO, AND DURING THE SPECIAL SESSION TO ACHIEVE THE MOST POSITIVE RESULT POSSIBLE.

--- WE CONSIDER THE SPECIAL SESSION TO BE DISTINCT IN ITS OBJECTIVES AND FUNCTIONS FROM A WORLD DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE AND COULD NOT REGARD ONE AS IMPLYING MOVEMENT TOWARD THE OTHER.

--- WE ARE NOT PREPARED, AT THIS TIME, TO SUPPORT THE
CONVENING OF A WDC. VANCE

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Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Sent Date: 16-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
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